

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,291 of *Burns et al.* ("*Burns*").

Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has stated that claims 9-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant has amended claim 9 to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 8. Given that claims 10-15 depend from amended claim 9, it is submitted that claims 9-15 are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Burns* because *Burns* does not teach adjusting a slave clock in response to a timing signal carried on a timing signal path and in response to separate a time-stamp carried on a network as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Burns* teaches adjusting a clock in a cable modem 500 in response to timestamp signals carried on the same coaxial cable. (See Figs 5 and 10 of *Burns*). For example, *Burns* discloses a cable modem 500 that receives signals via a coaxial cable input 505 (Fig. 5 of *Burns*) from a headend 200 (*Burns*, col. 8, lines 65-67). *Burns* teaches that the signals from the headend 200 received via the coaxial cable input 505 are provided to a signal processor 553 in the cable modem 500 (Fig. 5 of *Burns*) and that the signal processor 553 obtains timestamps from the coaxial input (*Burns*, col. 12, lines 61-66). *Burns* teaches that the timestamps received via the coaxial input 505 are used in the cable modem 500 to adjust its local clock. (*Burns*, col. 11, lines 23-57). In contrast, the slave clock of amended claim 1 adjusts its

local time in response to a timing signal received via a timing signal path and a separate time-stamp received via a network.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the distributed system of amended claim 1 that includes a timing signal path and a separate network and a master clock that generates a timing signal on the timing signal path and that transfers a time-stamp via the network and that further includes a slave clock that adjusts its local time in response to the timing signal and the time-stamp received via the network is not anticipated by the cable modem of *Burns* that adjusts its local time in response to timestamps received via the same coaxial cable.

Given that claims 2-4 and 7-8 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 2-4 and 7-8 are not anticipated by *Burns*.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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